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The Spectator

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College community mourns death of beloved Professor Sam Pellman

by Charles Dunst '18
Editor-in-chief

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY FORD

Professor Pellman was an admired teacher of music theory and composition, as well as the co-director of the Studio for Transmedia Arts and Related Studies.

With profound sadness, Hamilton College has continued to mourn the untimely death of Professor Sam Pellman. Pellman, the James L. Ferguson Professor of Music, was killed this past Thursday in a car accident while cycling in Kirkland.

The College has held numerous events to memorialize Pellman, including an informal gathering on Nov. 9 and a formal memorial service on Nov. 15. The formal service took place in Wellin Hall of the Schambach Center, while the following reception was held in the Kennedy Center for Theatre and Studio Arts — a building whose design Pellman contributed to.

"He was a widely admired teacher, a groundbreaking scholar in the area of electroacoustic music and an indispensible part of the fabric of this community," President David Wippman and Dean of Faculty Margaret Gentry wrote in an all-campus email, adding "he was a good and loyal friend to his colleagues, an exceptional advisor to students, and an exemplary representative of the College and its values. In so many ways," the email concluded, "he will be irreplaceable."

An Ohio native, Pellman received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, while he received his MFA and DMA from Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York.

Professor Pellman had been at Hamilton for nearly 40 years, teaching music theory and composition; he was also the co-director of the Studio for Transmedia Arts and Related Studies. Additionally, he served as Associate Dean of the Faculty, Posse mentor, and leader of the arts development. In April 2015, Pellman received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHERINE COLLETT

Professor Pellman sports a patriotic hat as secretary of Kirkland Town Democrats.

"He was my advisor for two years," said Adam Stern '18, adding, "even after that, he was still there to guide me through the initial ropes of music production, and he never missed an opportunity to listen to my music projects."

"I used to spend countless hours just having casual conversations with him, just because, more so than a professor, he was a friend to me."

Professor Pellman's colleagues in the Music Department reflected the warmth and reverence expressed by Stern.

"Trying to summarize Sam's presence in the Music Department in a sentence or two is exceedingly difficult," Heather Buchman, chair of the department, told *The Spectator*, continuing, "I will try, because it's important to at least attempt to communicate what he meant to the department."

"Sam's presence in the Music Department was equally treasured by colleagues and students alike," she said, adding, "He had several running jokes (or Leitmotifs) that formed a unique microculture in List – his love of sheep, sly use of musical quotations, his fusing music technology with unabashed goofiness and nerdiness, his love of all things digital, his tremendous influence in seeing the Wellin Museum and KTSA projects to fruition. He was the person so many people turned to for advice."

Concluding her remarks, Buchman put it simply.

"The love and respect that have been expressed in just the last few days has been overwhelming, matched only by the overwhelming loss we all feel here, and gratitude for the time that we had with him."

Pellman was not only active on the Hill, but in the local community as well. He was the organist and director of instrumental music at the Clinton United Methodist Church, tour accompanist for the Oneida Area Civic Chorale, secretary of the Kirkland Town Democrats, and a board member of the Syracuse Society for New Music.

Katherine Collett, chair of the Kirkland Town Democrats, told *The Spectator*, "The Kirkland Democrats will miss Sam terribly, for his insightfulness, his compassion, his wisdom, the music he could provide at the drop of a(n Uncle Sam) hat, and his gentle humor," adding, "each of us is heartsick about his tragic death."

Oneida County deputies, as reported by the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, said that Pelman, while riding his bike on Kirkland Avenue, was struck from behind by a Hyundai Sonata operated by an 86-year old Clinton resident. The accident is still under investigation and has been given to the Oneida County Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Pellman is survived by his wife of 42 years Colleen and their children, John and Emily.

The Spectator extends our deepest sympathies to Professor Pellman's family and loved ones, and we encourage members of our community to support one another through this difficult time.

Mental Health Initiative responds to student calls for increased action

by Amanda Kim '21
STAFF WRITER

Stressed-out students are abound in academic settings, and the numbers seem to indicate that more are being added to the ranks every day.

In a study on mental health conducted by the *Associated Press* and *mtvU* in 2008, eight in ten college students reported that they had sometimes or frequently experienced stress in their daily lives over the past three months.

That statistic marked a 20 percent increase in just five years.

On Oct. 2, 2017, in response to the growing concern surrounding mental health on college campuses and the recent tragedies at Hamilton, the College administration announced the launch of their Community of Care initiative.

The initiative aims to help strengthen bonds within the community and improve the mental health situation on the Hill.

To complement this movement, the Student Assembly created a working group in collaboration with the Dean of Students office called the Mental Health Initiative. This group works alongside the Community of Care initiative to pursue change and greater awareness on the issue of mental health.

Approximately 40 community members make up the Mental Health Initiative, led by Lorna Boyer Chase, Associate Dean of Students for Student Support Services. The group is diverse, consisting of concerned professors and students alike who acknowledge that mental health is an issue at Hamilton.

Julian Perricone '20, a Sophomore Class Representative and the Student Assembly liaison for the Mental Health Initiative, offered his own opinion.

"It's always been a big problem, but a lot of people think that now it's just a big problem because we've had two suicides on campus," Perricone said. "But it's always there. Maybe it's not manifesting itself at all times, but there are always people – large numbers of people on campus – who are struggling with mental health issues."

As a group, the Mental Health Initiative has proposed a few possible steps to be taken toward improving mental health awareness at Hamilton. One of these is the Poster Campaign; the Mental Health Initiative, along with the Community of Care Initiative, plans to circulate posters that might offer guidance and comfort to those grappling with mental health problems.

"If you've seen the SMART and SAVES posters, they have step-by-step directions for what you can do if [you've been] sexually assaulted. And they not only have directions but also options," Perricone said. "In a similar sense, we want to put out posters with step-by-step directions but also options for people who are on different sides of the mental health spectrum."

Other ideas currently in the works are the incorporation of mental health education into first-year and professor orientations, as well as the possibility of what Perricone calls the "Safe Haven" idea. The "Safe Haven" project, if implemented, would consist of stickers passed out to community members. Students and professors would have the option to put these stickers on their computers or doors, as well as in any other visible places.

Having a sticker would let people know that the individual is interested in mental health issues and is willing to engage in discussion with others who are interested or to offer support to someone who might be struggling with their mental health.

Perricone notes that there are still ways to help for those not part of either initiative.

"The first thing you can do is to educate yourself as much as you can about mental health on your own; educate yourself as much as possible on these issues because they really matter," Perricone said. "You might not even notice that people or friends are dealing with real struggles and if you want to help them, you need to know how."

The need for education on mental health, one of the main problems the initiatives aim to resolve, is highlighted by the recent suicides that took place on campus.

Until these plans are put to action, there are multiple resources for those struggling with mental health. As the Student Assembly noted in their most recent minutes, members of the community can reach out to the Counseling Center staff (315-859-4340), the Chaplaincy (315-859-4856), and the Dean of Students Office. Peer counselors are also available.

"Lorna Chase is our main administrative leader, if you will. There are also some other professors who have a vested interest in the mental health on campus. And then there are students who are vocal about how they feel about how the school handles mental healthiness, students who have had struggles with mental health before and are using their own experiences to fuel the initiative, which is great. And then there are also students who work for the Counseling Center, students who work for Student Assembly and students who are really devoted to improving mental health on campus," Perricone added.

For more immediate support, there is a professional counselor on call 24/7 who can be contacted by calling Campus Safety (*315-859-4000*) and asking for the "Counselor on Call."

Disgruntled ex-student files suit against College after being expelled for sexual misconduct

by Sarah Salimi '20
NEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 30, 2017, a complaint was filed in the Northern District Court of New York on behalf of a former Hamilton male student against the College. The complaint comes after his expulsion last year, twelve days before graduation, due to allegations of sexual misconduct brought forward by four female peers that were said to have occurred three years prior.

The plaintiff, proceeding pseudonymously as "John Doe," accuses the College of violating his right to due process as well as "discriminat[ing] against him on the basis of his gender."

The plaintiff calls out the College's Sexual Misconduct Policy as "insufficient to protect the rights of accused male students." John Doe maintains that this policy "affords the women who accuse a presumption of truth, blamelessness, and the full weight of institutional support." According to the suit, this creates a burden for male students who have been accused to defend themselves in these proceedings.

The due process allegations are multifold. First, the suit faults the College for changing its sexual assault investigation procedures in response to the Obama-era Title IX guidance – which have since been rescinded by the Trump administration. This guidance lowered the standard of proof needed for disciplinary action and switched the formal hearing model to one of investigation. The resulting guidelines and procedures that were implemented by the College are faulted with producing discriminatory outcomes.

The suit also accuses the College of "failing to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation." The plaintiff maintains that there was no proof that he had committed any of the misconducts he was accused of, and therefore, his expulsion was invalid. He was never found responsible for two of the alleged assaults, as the claimants withdrew days after Doe was removed from campus. In the case of the third, he was not found responsible.

However, in the fourth case, for which he was found responsible, the plaintiff maintains that his guilt was "erroneously concluded" because the woman's story was never found to be accurate. Instead, it was found that she was "incapacitated" due to alcohol consumption and therefore unable to give consent. As such, the plaintiff believes he was denied the right to fair and just proceedings because the conclusion was reached on the basis of a story that "lacked credibility" and an assumption that she lacked the ability to consent, for which "there was no evidence." The finding of responsibility and subsequent sanctioning were therefore not only "unwarranted," but demonstrated "substantial procedural errors in violation of Title IX and other federal and state laws."

Moreover, according to the suit, the College acted in ways that were "arbitrary and capricious," under immense pressure to prove that it could take a hard-line against sexual misconduct. The suit claims, "It was not until the 2016-17 academic year – the year following the most vocal criticism of Hamilton's failure to expel men found responsible for sexual misconduct – that Hamilton expelled students found responsible for non-consensual sex."

The suit argues that Terry Martinez – Hamilton's Vice President and Dean of Students – did not heed the Review Panel's recommendation of a five year suspension and instead "increased the sanction and expelled John Doe."

The suit concludes by claiming that the plaintiff was injured in ways that were financial and social. It holds that his educational and future job prospects have been damaged since he was denied a degree despite having completed four years of coursework. It further claims that he was "ostracized" by the campus community and "forever damaged emotionally by the excruciating and unfair process and the terribly unjust results flowing therefrom."

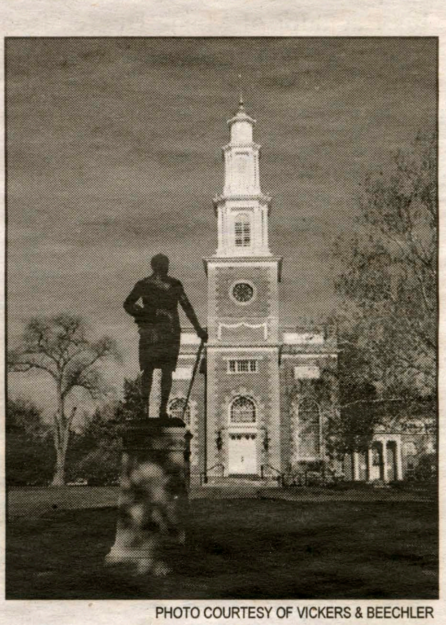

PHOTO COURTESY OF VICKERS & BEECHLER

Hamilton College faces suit brought by ex-student.

Professor of Education Studies shares personal social justice education experiences

by Melanie Snyder '20
NEWS EDITOR

Professor Merdith Madden outlined her experiences in education on Tuesday, Nov. 15 during her lecture entitled "Social Justice Education Matters Across Education Contexts." Her lecture gave a comprehensive view from the first-hand, personal experience of a teacher who has taught at various schools and universities. Madden described her commitments to social justice from the standpoints of a student, educator, researcher, and engaged citizen. She illuminated how her path to social justice action began with her own critical consciousness-raising and social identity awareness.

During her lecture, Madden outlined five essential components for social justice education. These steps are content mastery, tools for critical analysis, tools for action and social change, tools for personal reflection, and awareness of multicultural dynamics. Her own social justice education experiences were shared through an autoethnography — a reflection of experience to highlight structural inequalities. Madden went on to describe trends of "silencing, invisibility, and erasure" that she witnessed at various levels of education.

As a first-generation college student at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Madden first came to recognize differences in how students experience education. Specifically, she discovered as an undergraduate the differences between students who are positioned to receive their educational experiences, and those who are positioned to claim them. With this in mind, following graduation, Madden worked in Boston, Washington, D.C. , and New York non-profit organizations focusing on social issues.

While in New York City, Madden worked as a grant writer and public affairs coordinator at a maternity residence for pregnant female youth. It was here where she discovered the dichotomy between "supporting the cause versus supporting the person," as she described.

"I found it problematic to write about people without involving them," Madden explained. "I was writing about these young women, and writing about their experiences, without having much interaction or engagement with them."

In response to this discovery, Madden formed a dialogue group at the maternity residence, where she would meet in the evenings with the girls to listen and talk about their experiences, some of which were education related. Being New York City residents, they had access to public school spaces. However, Madden explained, where there is equal access, there has not always been equal opportunity for positive student experiences. Madden described this as a dehumanizing issue in education.

This experience inspired Madden to enter the field of teaching, as, through participation in the New York City Teaching Fellows program, she began work as a special education teacher placed at an underserved public middle school in the Bronx, NY. Madden witnessed the "dire situations" faced by children who attended the school. She described the blatant infrastructural inadequacy, a clear example of structural inequality. Madden was there as a NYC Teaching Fellow, an alternative teacher certification program that historically has led to an influx of white teachers into communities of color. She shared that as an urban educator, it became important for her to think about the ways she had and had not been prepared for her new role. She now advocates for alternative teacher education programs like NYCTF and Teach for America, as well as traditional education programs, to engage social justice education and interdisciplinary approaches to teacher preparation.

After teaching in the Bronx, Madden taught at a suburban public school in central New York. This school was more economically advantaged and students had access to many more resources. However, in her ELA classroom she noticed the lack of multicultural texts. When suggesting that students read a popular favorite in urban curriculums, Sandra Cisneros's *House on Mango Street*, her choice was resisted by colleagues. Instead, Madden was told that those "types" of books weren't really taught there. She described this instance as a scenario of silencing that worked to keep the experiences of marginalized people invisible and erased from the curriculum. In time, Madden was able to include the book into the curriculum.

After the accumulation of all of this knowledge and experience, Madden taught at Syracuse University and at a community college in central New York. There, she witnessed very clear differences in the way students engaged in dialogue and communicated with one another in class. Essentially, at the community college, Madden describes classes where there was less student interaction, less opportunity for critical dialogue, and divisions by "invisible borders" of experience. This type of educational structure is defined by Paolo Freire as "banking pedagogy." Many students at the community college thought they were meant to receive their education, as explained earlier, according to Madden. For Madden, it became important to her to create a space where students could claim their education.

Madden thus employed her teaching methods and the general educational structure found in her Intergroup Dialogue classroom at Syracuse to the community college, where students could engage with others and voice their opinions and perspectives in class, effectively tearing down invisible borders to find common ground. She found great enthusiasm from the students with students revealing how engaging with this pedagogy had fostered consciousness-raising, engaged voice, empowerment, and solidarity from working on social action projects.

Overall, Professor Madden witnessed various themes of marginalization during her experiences at all different levels of education in New York. She emphasized the need to think critically about alternative teacher certification programs that place underprepared teachers in the most underserved communities, and illustrated how social justice education is one approach to transforming schools for the good of students and the good of society.

Meredith Madden is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Education Studies at Hamilton. Her research focuses on sociology of education and social justice education. Her research and teaching interests also include critical pedagogy, teacher preparation, curriculum development and university-community collaborations. She recently taught the class "Issues in Education." She has published her work on social justice education in *Equity and Excellence in Education,* and *Feminist*

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Monday, November 6

12:57 A.M. Vehicle Towing – Faculty Lots
3:40 A.M. Area Check – North Lot
4:59 A.M. Area Check – Bristol Pool
8:40 A.M. Fire Alarm – ABC House
10:51 A.M. Parking Complaint – Commons Dining Hall
2:36 P.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – College Hill Road
10:07 P.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
11:32 P.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
11:53 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Root Residence Hall

Tuesday, November 7

1:41 A.M. Area Check – Fieldhouse
2:46 A.M. Trouble Alarm – President's House
6:40 P.M. Parking Complaint – Commons Dining
9:33 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Blood Fitness Center

Wednesday, November 8

12:53 A.M. Fire Alarm – CA Johnson
1:50 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
7:14 P.M. Parking Complaint – Bristol Pool

Thursday, November 9

8:22 P.M. Fire Alarm – Griffin Road Apts.
9:33 P.M. Fire Alarm – Dunham Hall
10:08 P.M. Assist OC 911 – Residence Hall
11:23 P.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

Friday, November 10

12:58 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:38 P.M. Medical Emergency – Campus Safety Office
6:01 P.M. Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall
9:31 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Root Residence Hall
9:38 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Bundy East
11:40 P.M. Concern for Welfare – Residence Hall

Saturday, September 11

1:32 A.M. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall
2:42 P.M. Smoke Detector – Skenandoa House
5:37 P.M. Area Check/Suspicious Vehicle – South Campus
8:34 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Café Opus
9:42 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Bundy West
10:29 P.M. Medical Emergency – Sadove Center

Sunday, September 12

1:13 A.M. Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion
1:40 A.M. Area Check – Alumni Gym

Higher expectations

While Hamilton students are encouraged to look toward their professors for academic, professional, and personal guidance, professors do not always set the best standards for students to follow. Recently, professors on campus have breached professional boundaries by making below-the-belt comments about student journalism, student activism, and even about other professors, often while using their esteemed status as a shield from repercussions. On one hand, Hamilton's tight-knit community makes it possible for students to build meaningful relationships with professors. On the other hand, word spreads fast and students have a right to hold professors accountable for their words and actions.

The Spectator has made a point of encouraging those with differing viewpoints to speak out and has sought to provide a platform for a variety of voices in the form of opinion pieces and Letters to the Editor. As anyone with a cursory understanding of civil discourse and constructive debate will know, however, there is a difference between disagreeing with someone's opinion and conflating an opinion with the character of that person.

Unfortunately, as you will see in this week's Letter to the Editor, some of the College's distinguished faculty are clearly failing to live up to our community's standards for discourse in grappling with difficult issues. Frankly, it is outrageous that over the past two weeks, two tenured Hamilton professors would engage in a war of personality, rather than a competition of ideas. While we are opting to publish this week's letter in the name of discourse and debate, we would be remiss to not address the level to which it fundamentally reflects the denigration of the campus ideals our professors are supposed to reflect.

We are, of course, referring to Professor Paquette's response to Professor Canavò's piece on Paul Gottfried's visit to campus, but this problem extends beyond these two professors. Namely, we recently heard from numerous students that professors have used their class time to criticize *The Spectator* and even specific members of the Editorial Board for perceived shortcomings in the coverage of Kurt Waldheim's honorary degree and the all-campus survey on free speech. Professors maligned *The Spectator* for not taking a position on our campus' own Waldheim affair; clearly, these professors are not aware of the unbiased nature of the News section.

We do not claim to be perfect journalists, writers, or investigators. We certainly deserve to be challenged directly on what we publish. However, we would welcome this challenge through the appropriate channels, rather than in hierarchical classroom settings where we have no way to defend our decisions. Overall, it is imperative that students, and the professors we look to for guidance, seek to do better.

Some may criticize our decision to publish Professor Paquette's letter. It is our hope that, by publishing a piece we may find to be unconstructive and unbecoming of a Hamilton professor, community members are able to recognize the need to reevaluate how we interact with each other, especially when we disagree so fundamentally on so many issues. As evidenced by the repeated immaturity demonstrated by our professors — this reevaluation is clearly needed.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.

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Celebrating 170 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

All work and no breaks make college a stressful place — the case for a new semester schedule

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

It is almost Thanksgiving Break and the excitement around campus is palpable. While I cannot wait to have the full week off from class, almost all of my friends are at college until Tuesday — a similar predicament to the one I faced during Fall Break. At times like these, I find myself wishing Hamilton's break schedule was different. Having long, sparse breaks definitely has its benefits, but I think that a better solution would be to have shorter breaks with random days off.

First, instead of Fall Break, I would much rather have sporadic days off from class at a few points during the first semester. One major point in favor of this idea is that Fall Break is less of a "break" and more of a long weekend. While it is nice to have Thursday and Friday off, it is also hard to do anything substantial with that time. Taking those two days and using them individually to create two long weekends would likely pace the semester much better than the current schedule does.

Another point against having a Fall Break is that for those who cannot go home during this short break, it is a really hard time to be on campus. The only dining option open is Commons and it is only open during select hours. Additionally, there can be a sense of loneliness or isolation when friends depart for the break and there is little to do if you are on campus. To this point, Wade Steely '20 says, "I wanted to stay on campus for Fall Break, but decided not to because the College makes it too hard to be on campus."

Wade's comment alludes to a bigger point; students that have the ability to either go home or to visit friends at other colleges can enjoy a fun and unique weekend. For students that cannot travel home or visit friends, there is not a good alternative.

Rather than getting rid of the days off that Fall Break affords, we should redistribute those days to make the longer stretches of the semester more manageable. The same goes for Thanksgiving Break; instead of starting it when classes end on Friday, we could postpone the break until the Tuesday of the next week, thus giving us four newly available days to use.

I believe that these four individual days off would be much better for the student body. I suggest that the most balanced way to spread out these days would be to have them be: one Monday, one Tuesday, one Thursday, and one Friday without class during the first semester. This would allow for two three-day weekends. These three-day weekends would not only allow for students to enjoy a fun couple of days, but also would create something for students to look forward to, as opposed to the existing practice of grinding for weeks on end in pursuit of the perpetually distant Thanksgiving and Winter breaks. The Tuesday and Thursday off from class could also make for exciting, new events on-campus that could usher in new traditions unique to the Hill. Of course, this assumes that campus would still function normally with regular dining hall hours and dorm access.

These days off from class would also act as mental health days. By definition, a mental health day is, "a day that an employee takes off from work in order to relieve stress or renew vitality." In this case, the students would be the "employees," and "work" would be the normal class schedule. The addition of such days would help all students with stress, improve productivity, and provide students an opportunity to catch up on much needed sleep. A *Huffington Post* article investigating the benefits of mental health days found that workers experienced uniformly positive effects from these days.

Mental health is, rightly, a major focus on campus right now. I think that now is the perfect time to start a dialogue about changing the academic schedule to accommodate the realities of student life. In workplaces around the country, the issue of a work-life balance is debated and acted upon, but the same conversation about school work and life is not as prevalent on college campuses.

A recent study highlighted several key connections between stress from work and mental health. The World Health Organization found that one in four Americans state that "work is a cause of anxiety" and a 80 percent of respondents said that they are not happy with their current work-life balance. The same study found that these struggles negatively affect productivity. It is not hard to see how these results could manifest themselves in similar ways on campus.

On our campus, being alone on campus during a short break, like Fall Break, can also contribute to aforementioned feelings of loneliness and isolation that also correlate to mental health issues. For a student struggling with mental health, the worst thing to do would be to have four or five days on campus without any friends there, whereas a collection of three-day weekends would likely relieve the stress of classes while also allowing for fun experiences with friends.

Beyond first semester, we should consider changing the schedule in the spring as well. Keith Ruggles '20 says, "I really like the idea of having sporadic days off. I also think that would be particularly helpful during the spring semester. We have the two week break, but besides that, it feels like we're in class everyday." With eight straight weeks of classes between the end of Winter Break and the beginning of Spring Break, it is easy to see why Ruggles holds this perspective. During these stretches of full academic weeks, days can blend together and lose some of the meaning they would hold if students were afforded a break every now and then to relax and reflect. I suspect we would also be able to foster a greater sense of community from these days as well.

This is not the first time changing the Spring academic calendar has been discussed. Sophomore Class President Cesar Guerrero Domenech '20 brought up this issue during the Student Assembly meeting on October 2nd. He said, "In the spring semester it is very cold and dreary. We have eight weeks of work before Spring Break. Is there any benefit to having long weekends especially in times of academic stress? I don't know if it helps, but I would say that I think it would have helped me last semester to have something to look forward to."

In response, President Wippman said, "One idea that we have talked about is that at some schools, the President can unilaterally take a day off a semester. We haven't really discussed this too far but we can look into it. We are looking at different ways we can destress the semester. Maybe more credit-no credit options or including a J or May term."

> **"Rather than getting rid of the days off that Fall Break affords, we should redistribute those days to make the longer stretches of the semester more manageable. The same goes for Thanksgiving Break; instead of starting it when classes end on Friday, we could postpone the break until the Tuesday of the next week, thus giving us four newly available days to use."**

Wippman's words indicate that he is aware of the stresses our schedule puts on students. My hope would be that the administration sees the benefits not just of having a single extra day off, but also of reassessing the way we schedule breaks in order to make the school year more manageable. As we continue to address mental health on campus and seek ways to improve student life, our academic calendar should be one of the first places we look to for improvement.

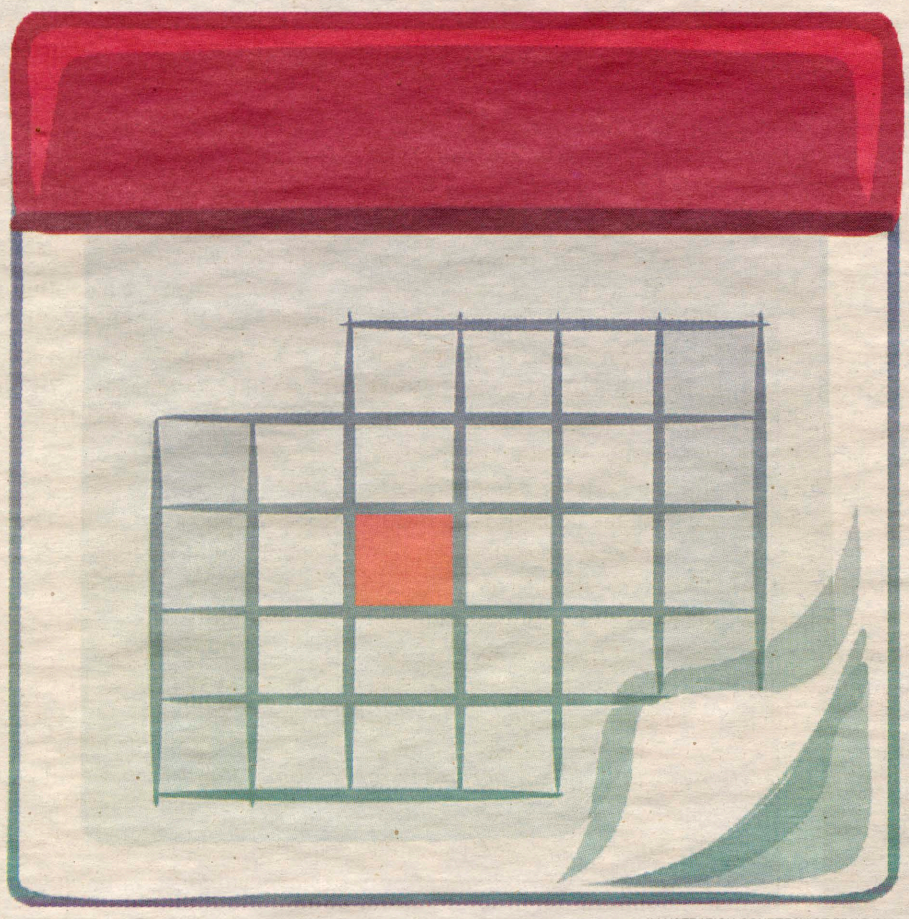


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Disclaimer:
The views expressed in the Opinion pages are those of the writers. They are not necessarily representative of the opinions and values of *The Spectator* editorial board.

From lit to litty: getting rid of the Spring Concert would ensure a Class & Charter Day to remember

by Gavin Meade '20
Staff Writer

On November 6th, Joey Dixon '18 and Josh Rothstein '19 proposed to Student Assembly, and concurrently the student body, the prospect of eliminating the traditional spring concert and rolling that budget into that of the Class & Charter Day concert. Personally, I think this is a very exciting idea and one that allows for a more engaging end to the academic year. Although the Campus Activities Board (CAB) survey asking the student body to vote on this proposal will have expired by the time this article is published, it remains that the best choice is to funnel all resources into the Class & Charter Day festivities.

In this Student Assembly meeting, Dixon and Rothstein said that the Spring Concert typically costs between $20,000 and $25,000 to book an artist. For this kind of cash, CAB can book a semi-relevant name. For example, Noname, Ugly God, and Hermitude were listed as possible contenders for spring concert artists. Personally, I have never heard of any of them and definitely would not pay to go to a show of theirs.

Last year, DRAM headlined the spring concert, and aside from the performance of his hit song, "Broccoli," no one really knew what was happening on stage. Why should we spend $20,000 on a performer that will not inspire a large turnout when we could take that money and bring a truly famous and enticing name to campus for Class & Charter Day. Names like Galantis, Lil Yatchy, Lil Dicky, and Bebe Rhexa were suggested during the meeting. They would certainly make for a fantastic concert. The more people that buy into the entertainer on campus, the more fun the event is; I think that splitting the available budget into two subsections detracts from the potential of C&C.

It is atypical that schools have three concerts, but Hamilton has one in the fall, spring, and at C&C. The existing model was implemented when CAB had a Fall and a Spring Concert in addition to a separate day called May Day. May Day was a day of bands performing that was accompanied by reportedly high levels of drinking and other risk-taking behavior. A concert was suggested in an effort to provide students with an activity with music and food that would (hypothetically) cut down on these risk-taking behaviors. It is clear to any student who has taken part in C&C festivities, however, that the day is as much defined by its concert as it is by a host of risky behavior.

C&C is a great day — a fun way to end the school year and celebrate before final exams — but it has undoubtedly failed to divert risk-taking behaviors as it was originally intended. Rather than getting rid of the day, we should eliminate the Spring Concert and we can come together as a community at the end of the academic year for a truly epic concert.

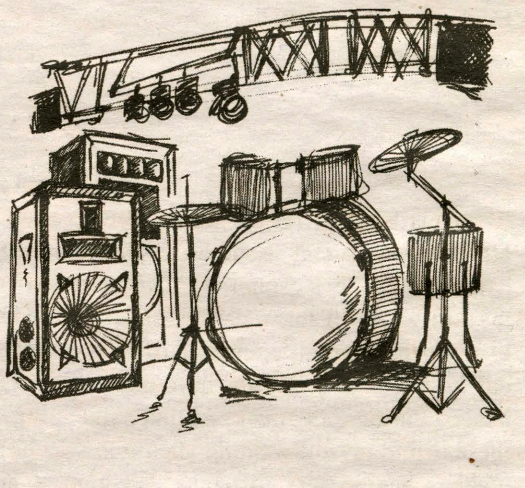


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Lastly, consider that the absence of a Spring Concert does not mean the lack of fun events for the student body. It was suggested in the meeting that a large acoustic coffeehouse event could be added in place of the spring concert — while costing very little — in addition to any other programming that various student groups plan.

Class & Charter Day is one of the best days of the year at Hamilton — arguably the one students look forward to the most. By eliminating the largely insignificant Spring concert, we can make C&C even better, while making room for events to highlight student performers in lieu of a middling artist that few will pay to see. The choice is clear — choose C&C.

Letter to the Editor: Re: "Racists in the classroom"

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

On 27 Oct., "the full-time members of the Government department" issued a confusing and inconsistent all-campus statement about the appearance on campus of Dr. Paul Gottfried. Shortly thereafter, in immediate response, I emailed Phil Klinkner, the departmental chairman, saying that "I am the one — and I alone — who is responsible for bringing Paul here." I do not apologize for doing so. His appearances were announced months in advance on AHI's website. Months before Gottfried appeared at Hamilton, details of his classroom visitations were worked out with the relevant professors. Should anyone like additional information about Gottfried, his credentials, and why he was brought to Hamilton, look to the Alexander Hamilton Institute's website: theahi.org.

I will repeat what I have told others. No one on Hamilton College's campus approaches Paul Gottfried, an active scholar for more than fifty years, in range of erudition and mastery of languages. In the 1960s, my mentor, Eugene Genovese, an internationally known Marxist scholar at the time, tried to recruit Gottfried, a Yale Ph.D., to the graduate program in history at the University of Rochester, then one of the best in the country. Genovese said of Gottfried, he is "an American intellectual of superior talent, [who] has been treated abominably by Academia, not only for his conservatism but for his incorruptibility." Paul, I feel your pain. At Hamilton, Gottfried addressed all the questions raised by Cannavò and many more, and he did so in a way that many students and others present found intellectually stimulating.

Since Cannavò knows full well that I was the one responsible for bringing Gottfried to campus, he targets me, and I will respond to his preening, error-filled letter. Cannavò and I have a history. It is relevant to bring some of it to public attention. In the 16 Feb. 2007 issue of *The Spectator* I took him to task for smiting, hip and thigh, an undergraduate named Ben Noble — as it turned out, one of Cannavò's former students. What was Noble's crime? As a reporter for *The Spectator*, Noble had investigated the political donations of Hamilton's faculty and could find only one who had contributed to the Republican Party. He was concerned about the lack of intellectual diversity on campus. Why the public flogging of a former student? Unlike Cannavò, I cannot read minds, but at the time he was a visiting assistant professor in hopes of landing a tenure-track position. At Hamilton, it never hurts when you're looking for job security to burnish your left-wing credentials, even if it means whack-a-moling the weak.

On at least two occasions Cannavò has enjoyed the hospitality of AHI with specially prepared meals catered to his vegan preferences. Yet, in 2011, according to an undergraduate of African descent who was being intensively nurtured by AHI, Cannavò and two like-minded professors pressured him into severing his ties to AHI, although, to be fair, Cannavò denied to me evil intention. In 2015, in response to an all-campus email, Cannavò openly declared that whites were "terrified" to talk about race on campus. He called the "silence, awkwardness, or plain disregard" of the issue "cowardly and offensive," a silence that "perpetuates racism." Yet, when an undergraduate named Joe Simonson published an article that Cannavo did not like on the Ferguson riots, Cannavo sent him a vicious email and then, as icing on the cake, wrote a damning letter, redolent of innuendo, to *The Spectator*. It is safe to say that when I got wind of it, Cannavo did not like what I had to say.

As I have told Hamilton faculty, administrators, and trustees, I will not stand idly by and allow professors who think conservatism is a pathology to browbeat right-of-center students into silence. On that score, I confess I may be fighting a losing battle. The Hamilton College Republican Club is virtually defunct (Please faculty no standing ovations). Hamilton's administration had to invent undergraduate Republican leaders to present to Karl Rove at the recent Common Ground gala, a series that will have absolutely no impact on redressing the gross intellectual imbalances and disproportions here. In the 1990s, Hamilton College had a Republican Club with at least sixty active members as well as a conservative club with more than a dozen active members. In the aftermath of the Trump election, the young woman who headed the Republican Club, someone who, by the way, didn't vote for Trump, was accosted on three occasions, twice by activist students, once by an activist professor. Instead of listening to the canary in the coal mine, the trustees seem bent on congratulating themselves for the very conditions that are causing the poor bird's demise.

In that regard, Professor Cannavò, who has an advanced degree in political science, seems to think he also has one in theology. In 2008, preaching a sermon on the mount, he summoned every faculty member on campus to turn their classes over on 30 or 31 January to "global warming and its implications in your curriculum." In 2014, on a panel sponsored by AHI at Hamilton on free speech, Cannavò made perfectly clear that he was a professor who would take certain issues in his classroom off the table for debate. I was in the audience at the time; I corrected him in his discussion of the Ward Churchill affair since for many of us, the matter of Churchill's appearance at Hamilton was not about speech, but rather about academic fraud. Churchill was fired by the Colorado Board of Regents for multiple acts of academic fraud. To date, I have not heard one apology from the faculty smear merchants who slandered me as a McCarthyite for proving Churchill was a phony Indian and a phony historian.

For students, I have this advice: caveat emptor. The utopian illusion often masks the totalitarian impulse.

Sincerely,

Robert Paquette
Department of History

Disclaimer:
The views expressed in the Opinion pages are those of the writers. They are not necessarily representative of the opinions and values of *The Spectator* editorial board.

The author requested that this letter be published verbatim. *The Spectator* did, however, format this submission in accordance with our style guidelines.

A Canadian Thanksgiving

by Will Andriola '21
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving in the United States is a time for togetherness and for being with family. Perhaps, more importantly, it is a time to stuff oneself with as much turkey and mashed potatoes as humanly possible in a single meal, while simultaneously consuming the most American of sports – football. Bearing in mind that many Hamilton College students are from Canada, *The Spectator* decided to take a look at what our neighbors up north think of our hallowed, somewhat extravagant holiday.

Justin Felhaber '21 was born and raised in Ottawa Valley, Canada. A forward for the Hamilton hockey team, he has spent a large amount of time in the United States, attending high school and now college here. As such, he is relatively familiar with the general practices of American Thanksgiving. The main difference, he says, is the timing of the holiday.

"In Canada, Thanksgiving takes place during October," he says, whereas American Thanksgiving happens "during Canadian buck season." The Felhaber family has already landed two moose and one buck this year.

Additionally, the "baggage" of Canadian Thanksgiving isn't quite as heavy. Whereas Thanksgiving in the United States sometimes sparks conversations about past practices of colonialism, Canadian Thanksgiving "avoids that hoop-la," and ends up being a nice "feeling-together sort of holiday."

Canadians held their first Thanksgiving around the time of the American Civil War to celebrate thankfulness for *not* being part of a United States that was embroiled in war. Felhaber also commented on the similarities between the foods served at Canadian and American Thanksgiving. The Felhaber household celebrates Thanksgiving with turkey and "mashed potatoes whipped up nice and fresh by Cousin Curtis." One minor point of divergence; "I think we'll skip the cranberry sauce and just go straight for the gravy on turkey."

Another difference is that Canadian Thanksgiving is stretched out over two days, Sunday and Monday, rather than one. Not only does this mean that Canadians get the Monday off rather than a Thursday, as in the United States, but Felhaber realizes it is "convenient, let's say, if you want to see both sides of the family separately."

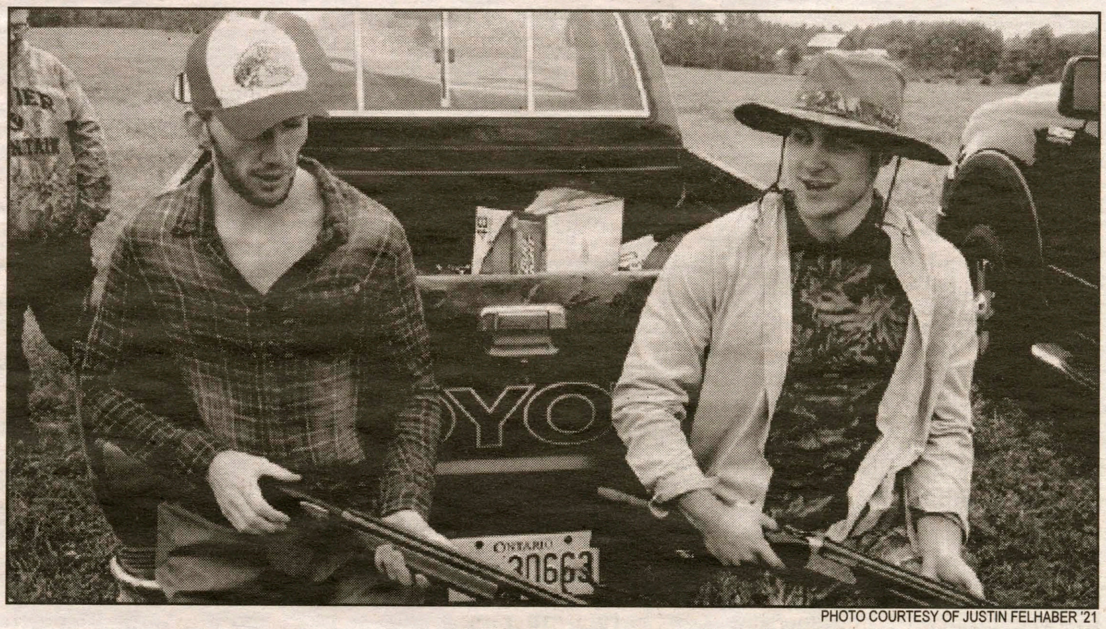


PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN FELHABER '21

Justin Felhaber '21 (right) will go home to Canada next week, but he might not celebrate Thanksgiving the way Americans might.

Perhaps the biggest difference between Thanksgiving in Canada in the United States is the sports people watch during each. Whereas many American households watch football games on Thanksgiving Day, Canadians prefer slightly different fare. In Canada, "little wigglers and adults alike like to gather around the TV and watch the Leafs," a hockey team in the NHL based in Toronto, Canada. Additionally, "we don't exactly sit around and toss the pigskin with our family after a big meal," says Felhaber. He wishes he could say that families all around Pembroke, a small city in Ontario, gather round to watch a Lumber Kings ice hockey game on Thanksgiving, but "unfortunately," he says, "that is one of our lower attended events."

Ultimately, Felhaber dodged the question when asked if he had any desire to attend an American Thanksgiving, preferring instead to point out several of the better aspects of Canadian Thanksgiving, namely the fact that it is a two-day holiday.

Canadian and American Thanksgiving each have unique traditions, whether it be watching hockey instead of football or celebrating a 48-hour-long holiday. Whether you are above or below the 49th parallel, there are several ways to celebrate this much-anticipated holiday. Still, at the conclusion of the interview, one couldn't help but feel there are more similarities between our two countries' versions of this iconic holiday than not.

How to: Thanksgiving dinner table talk

by Rileigh Arrington '21
Contributing Writer

With Thanksgiving Break on the horizon, many Hamilton students cannot wait to get home to their families, pets, and food – none of which require leaving the warmth of their dorms to obtain. But for some of us, going home to visit relatives might mean the possibility of discussing politics with our entire extended family, which everyone knows will never end well. Of course, dialogue about our country's political state and how we can better it should more often than not be encouraged, but Thanksgiving dinner may not be the best time to strike up that topic of conversation. If you would like to avoid any politically charged confrontation with your family this holiday season, here are some helpful tips to move the dinner conversation elsewhere.

First, subtly start asking where people plan on sitting about half an hour before dinner starts. Strategic seating is your best friend in this situation. If you see two inflammatory family members gravitating towards each other, try to steer them towards a more moderate cousin. Unless you are from one of those families that insists on a kids table, try to disperse the children as widely as possible; they diffuse tension surprisingly well.

You should have some other topics of conversation prepared. It might be worth scrolling through Facebook before sitting down to dinner; then, you will know you can ask about your aunt's recent promotion, or your cousin's ballet recital that your other aunt basically livestreamed, or your grandparents' trip to Niagara Falls. You will seem like a caring family member who keeps up with everyone's activities and this will probably buy you at least a solid fifteen minutes.

Compliment whoever cooked for the hundredth time. It is a genuinely kind gesture, given that this person probably worked hard for most of the day to feed your whole family. Besides, everyone else at the table, not wanting to seem rude, will most likely stop talking to also comment on how amazing mashed potatoes are. From here, you can take the conversation in several different directions such as, Are sweet potatoes even good?

Definitely bring up Black Friday. This will at least distract the shoppers at the table. Debate the best time to hit the mall and the stores with the best deals.

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Suggest bringing back that game your family would play when you were little (every family did this at least once – don't lie). This is the typical conversation where you go around the table and everyone says what they are thankful for. Yes, it is cheesy, but it can end up being cute, funny, and even enjoyable.

Remember that whether you agree with your family's political views or not, Thanksgiving is about getting to go home and be with them, so make sure not to let any stray argument that may arise overshadow that.

Finally, if absolutely all else fails, you can always bite the bullet and steer the conversation towards your relationship status. Odds are, your family will get there eventually anyway, and your nosier relatives will most likely be more interested in your life than anyone else's. I have used this trick before, and while it may seem like a hail mary, it works like a charm.

Another way to $pend Black Friday

by Gabby Colchete '21
Staff Writer

There are two types of people in this world – the type that sleep in the day after Thanksgiving, and the type who get up early to throw-down in the shopping aisles. If you identify with the former, you may have trouble finding ways to spend the infamous Black Friday.

Unless you want to stay in bed all day and mourn the death of your waistline, it may seem impossible to avoid getting sucked into the vicious consumerism taking place outside. However, there are, in fact, plenty of neglected alternatives for people who do not like to shop on this day.

Here are some ideas on how you can spare your sanity on this hectic day, as well as your bank account!

Visit the local park, hiking trail, or ice rink.

Black Friday can bring out the worst in humanity, so it is understandable if you would want to distance yourself from civilization for the day. If your hometown is not blessed with beautiful hiking trails like Clinton, New York is, your local park will suffice.

If your park has a lake, and it is cold enough to ice skate on it, now is your opportunity to do that when it is the least crowded. However, if you are staying on campus over the break, do not let the cold keep you from the Glen – just be sure to bundle up before you head out. Whether you spend the day in the woods, a local park, or at a lake, you can be sure that you will not run into any rabid customers.

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Go to a museum.

If you live by a museum that peaks your interest, this is a day that you can practically have the entire place to yourself. This is a great idea for people who want to avoid both the unhinged consumers and the chilly November weather. No matter how popular or crowded these museums typically are, you can count on it being significantly quieter than usual. Instead of pondering the potential deals that you are missing out on, your mind will be occupied with the fascinating exhibits you are perusing.

Write, draw, paint, or explore any other kind of art form.

If you are averse to the soul-sucking consumerism perpetuated on this day, then why not partake in an activity that feeds the soul? If you do not think of yourself as an artistic person, maybe you can discover a hidden talent today. Because, what is better than creating things on a day where people are expected to do nothing but consume?

Spend time with the people you love.

You can do this during any of the previously mentioned activities, or if you just want to spend the day at home. Whatever you decide to do on Black Friday, it is better spent with people you love.

A big reason why so many people lose control on Black Friday, sometimes reverting to violence, is because they believe that accumulating a lot of material things will make them happy. People get violent because they are desperate to possess better items than their neighbors, friends, colleagues.

Plenty of psychological studies have shown that this self-centered pursuit is not something that can induce long-lasting happiness. However, there is evidence that feeling connected to other people can lead to long term happiness.

If you want to go shopping on Black Friday to find good deals on a few items you have in mind, there is nothing wrong with that. However, if you are only motivated to accumulate more stuff in your house, maybe consider whether this behavior is healthy or productive.

Keeping Hamilton sustainable

by Margaret Riordan '19
Staff Writer

There is a crucial intersection of collective demand and responsive action that helps Hamilton College become a further sustainable college and community. Hamilton's Sustainability Coordinators (HSC) gather student sustainability desires, while Physical Plant plays a responsive and transparent role as the authority tasked with making these desires a reality.

At the beginning of November, Donald Craft pointed the Hamilton community's attention towards new sustainability initiatives taken by Physical Plant and the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators. These updates focused on managing the campus grounds, which may seem less than thrilling to some, but actually serve as the foundation of existing as an authentically sustainable campus.

Much of the sustainability work that goes on between Physical Plant and HSC occurs when no one is watching. This summer the Rogers Estate garage was renovated and Physical Plant discovered two beehives attached to the roof. Physical Plant took it upon themselves to safely (for them and the bees) remove the beehives from the garage and relocate them off campus.

Hamilton even has a new friend on campus. Physical Plant recently introduced a largemouth bass in the Kennedy Center for Theatre and the Studio Arts (KTSA) pond to prevent the spread of the goldfish population down to Oriskany Creek. Since largemouth bass are native predators they will naturally reduce the goldfish population, which is important since, as a non-native species, the goldfish could invade our local streams.

Campus foliage also has made some sustainable improvement, as Physical Plant began trial planting hasta around the bases of trees. Hasta is a shade-tolerant plant that allows Physical Plant to evade spraying herbicides. The hasta plant also offers a more aesthetically pleasing look to the campus trees, and can be seen around the trees in certain areas of the light side of campus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY FORD

Physical Plant added largemouth bass to the KTSA pond to restrict the goldfish population that resides there now.

Furthermore, Physical Plant was proud to announce that the pollinator gardens at Rogers field are currently experimenting with trial plots, and all the plots were cleared without any use of herbicides. The crew tried out different mulching methods and is awaiting the results in the spring. These efforts accompany a student revitalization of the Rogers Estate garden, an effort of the Hamilton Community Garden Committee to bring students back to the garden located behind the Co-Op.

In past years, this garden has served as a gathering place for students interested in agriculture, local food movements, or simply looking to use gardening as a method to de-stress.

Campus sustainability is undoubtedly a collaborative effort on campus. The work between HSC and Physical Plant shows what is going on behind the scenes to help Hamilton become a healthier campus. These updates may not be the most eyebrow raising or aesthetically pleasing as some green efforts, nonetheless, Physical Plant gets the job done when it comes to reducing chemicals on campus, protecting wildlife, and promoting local ecosystems. Thank you, Physical Plant and Hamilton Sustainability

T B T

First Student Accepted by Kirkland Feels "A Responsibility To Do Well"

by Grace Myers '19
Production Editor

In the interest of fostering a sense of pride for Hamilton College's past, and to connect this past with Hamilton's present and future, The Spectator *has decided to re-publish a collection of archived articles.* The Spectator *will feature pieces from this week, 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 years ago.*

By Lynne Degitz

Kid her and she comes back with a quip. Ask her a tough question and she has an objective answer reading, with no hesitation at all.

Who is she? She is Sarah Wheeler, the first student admitted to Kirkland. She is the first of a group of eleven girls who have decided to come to Kirkland next fall.

"I chose Kirkland because I believe it will offer a challenging course of study. I like the core-course program and the emphasis on independent work," Sarah explained to *The Spectator*. She thought that a coordinate college offers the best qualities of an all girls' school and a co-ed college.

Sarah, who lives in Somerville, N. J., finished her junior year at Bridgewater-Raritan High School first in a class of 480 students. She had junior college board scores in the mid to upper 700s and was a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist. Sarah is 16 years old.

Sarah first learned of Kirkland from an article in the Hamilton Alumni Review, which her family receives because her grandfather attended Hamilton. Her interest preceded the selection of the Kirkland administrative staff, and she began writing Sidney Bennett, Hamilton's admissions director, for information before Kirkland's admissions office was established. She was one of the first girls to visit Kirkland last February.

Planning to study biochemistry at graduate school, Sarah believes that chemistry is one of Hamilton's strongest departments and looks forward to doing independent laboratory work here.

"I'm glad that Kirkland has a program that will allow me to study humanities, social sciences, and art not in minute detail but in terms of larger interdisciplinary relationships. I'll be able to begin extensive independent study in my major during my junior year," she explained.

Commenting on Kirkland's grading system Sarah said, "The lack of a traditional system should remove the unnecessary pressure of grades, yet a transcript of my marks will be kept in the Dean's office so that I'll have the information when I apply to graduate school."

When Sarah talks with you she looks you squarely in the eyes and answers your questions rapidly and well.

Her modesty is impressive. Despite a nearly perfect score on a chemistry CEB, she said she wasn't sure whether she would be able to do well enough on placement exams to receive advanced placement.

Sarah and her classmates share the opportunities and the responsibilities of a first year class.

"I'm excited about being a member of the first class of a new college. My classmates and I know that we have the responsibility to do well. People will being judging Kirkland on the basis of what we do, and we're anxious to begin," she said.

Dean Inez Nelbach said that Kirkland should be able to announce the acceptance of 10 to 15 more girls this week. This would increase the total number of acceptances to 30.

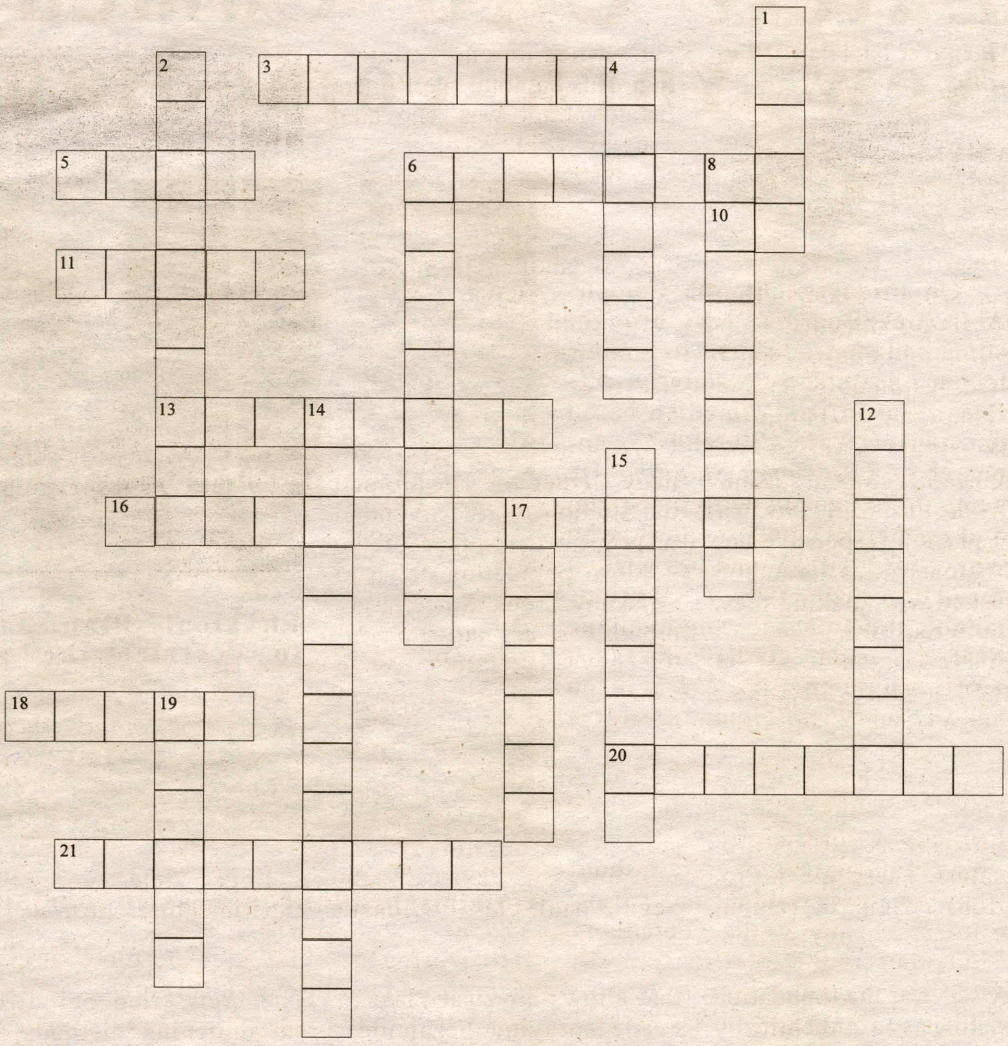
November 1967

Bon appétit and cheers! We hope you gobble up this week's puzzle while surrounded by loved ones and food! What are you thankful for? We're thankful for your participation in our crosswords. This week's puzzle is Thanksgiving-themed. Good luck!

by Cilly Geranios '19 *Managing Editor*
Molly Geisinger '19 *Features Editor*

Across:
3. County in Mass., often associated with Pilgrims.
5. On the cob, roasted, canned.
6. First settlers, sailed on #8 down.
10. @.
11. Squash, pumpkin – all part of the cucurbitaceae family.
13. These are a root vegetable closely related to carrots.
16. One of our favorite Thanksgiving carbs – starchy, creamy and delicious.
18. Turkey sauce.
20. Settlers called the Americas, the ________.
21. Thankful.

Down:
1. A _____ fit for a king.
2. Horn of plenty.
4. Autumn is the season of_____.
6. Traditional dessert made with a member of the cucurbitaceae family.
8. The ship on which the first settlers arrived at the Americas.
12. No shave ________.
14. A kind starch, mentioned in one of the *Spec* staff recipes.
15. Meat and bread side, sometimes served inside the turkey on Thanksgiving.
17. The big birds meat-eaters consume during Thanksgiving, traditionally.
19. Bon _____.



Answers: ACROSS: 3. Plymouth 5. corn, 6. pilgrim, 10. at, 11. gourd, 13. parsnip, 16. mashed potatoes, 18. gravy, 20. New World, 21. gratitude. DOWN: 1. feast, 2. cornucopia, 4. harvest, 6. pumpkin pie, 8. Mayflower, 12. November, 14. sweet potatoes, 15. stuffing, 17. turkey, 19. voyage.

Review: "Swing Low," a communal Days-Massolo Center Cultural Choir Concert

by Edgar Otero '20
Staff Writer

The Days-Massolo Center cultural choir hosted an inaugural event in celebration of the Hamilton community on Saturday, Nov. 11. The event, titled "Swing Low: a Celebration of the Hamilton Community in Song," aimed for its audience to experience how one song can travel through time and communities, bringing social, ethnic, and spiritual depth and intellect to The Hill. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" is that song, the one that allows every individual, no matter where they come from, to share a community here at Hamilton and celebrate the value of our journeys.The choir featured members of the Student Diversity Council, Sustah Girls, Brothers Organization, and the Hamilton community in general. The event itself also included performances from the College Hill Singers and the Hamilton College Saxophone Ensemble.

In light of the recent loss of Sam Pellman, a beloved and distinguished professor of music in the Hamilton family, this celebration was dedicated to his appreciation for community and love of music which brought everyone together to celebrate that night. Phyllis Breland, director of the Days-Massolo Center Cultural Community Choir, paid a special tribute to Pellman during the event, affirming that he was there in spirit and that his hard work in making this event possible would not go unnoticed.

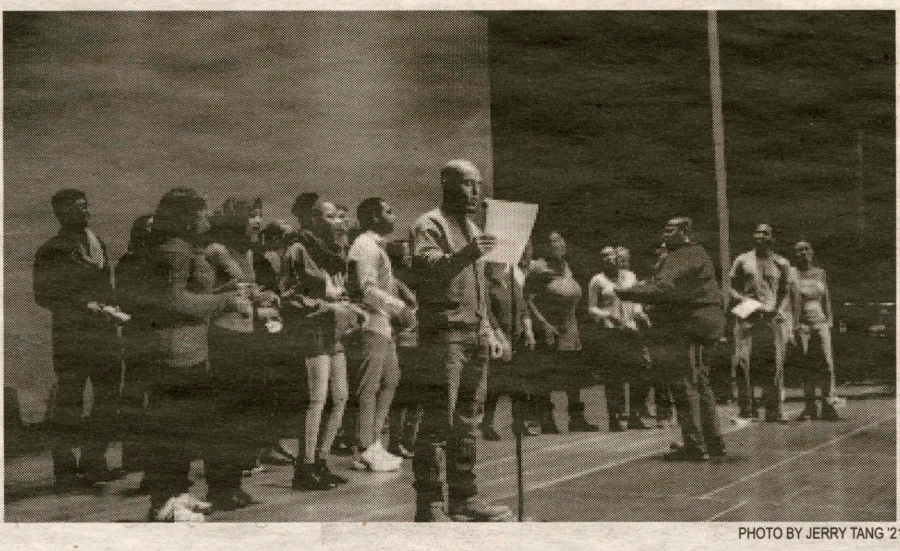


PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

The DMC Cultural Community Choir in action at their concert "Swing Low" on Nov. 11.

"Swing Low" featured a diverse array of musical performances that captivated the audience with unique takes on the timeless classic. Opening up the show was Jace Saplan, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Studies, conducting the College Hill Singers with an arrangement inspired by the original recording of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" by the Fisk Jubilee Singers of Fisk University, a group known as pioneers of the African-American a cappella ensemble. Saplan stated that this piece speaks to the unifying power of music and community, and indeed it did, as the College Hill Singers honored the musical sound of the original creators with their rendition of the song.

Professor Michael "Doc" Woods delivered an audio-visual piece that spoke to the historical and cultural significance of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" by depicting two powerful images that illustrated the harsh realities of slavery yet highlighted the song as a source of hope for those seeking a light at the end of the tunnel through those dark times.

Monk Rowe, director of the Jazz archive, led the Saxophone ensemble in another special rendition of "Swing Low" that featured Sean Henry- Smith '15 as the vocalist for the selection. The dynamic piece transitioned from a rich, piano-backed ballad into an upbeat, flavorful medley intertwined with lyrics inspired by Bob Marley's "One Love." Smith's smooth vocals meshed beautifully with the brilliant sounds of the saxophone and the playful rhythm of the bongo drums.

The evening ended with a vivid rendition of "Swing Down Chariot," a fun update to the original song, sung by the Cultural Choir and joined by the College Hill Singers, the saxophone ensemble, and members of the Hamilton community. Breland began the song with a strong, lively solo followed by the members of the Cultural Choir joining her onstage, singing and clapping along to the all-inclusive final performance. Marquis Palmer '18 delivered a spoken word poem in the middle of the song about the importance of belonging to community. The audience was even invited to sing along to the words found on the backs of their programs, which exemplified the significance this event had for the Hamilton community it was celebrating through song.

"Swing Low," an event which had been years in the making, proved to be a grand success that engaged the Hamilton community in celebration through an enduring song packed with ageless meaning for the individual and collective journey of life. Dedicated to the memory of Sam Pellman, this event proved that, whether physically present or in spirit, the members of the Hamilton family are never forgotten and hope always prevails no matter the circumstances as long as we stick together as one.

Latest CAB Comedy event features New York comedian Monroe Martin

by Zac Ball '20
Staff Writer

On Friday night, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) brought comedian Monroe Martin to campus to put on a stand-up show in The Barn. Martin is a comedian based out of New York City and has appeared on *Last Comic Standing*. He came up to campus with his friend and opener Reggie Conquest, who works for Fuse TV and has written for *Impractical Jokers*. CAB brings notable comedians to campus all the time, as recent acts have included SNL castmember Pete Davidson last February and alumna Caroline Kriedberg '17.

After the show, I talked with Deirdre Schutzman '20, the CAB Comedy Coordinator. "I thought they put on a great, energetic show. They were professional and warm," Shutzman said of the comedians. Shutzman found Martin the way the Comedy Coordinator usually finds comedians — by watching tapes of their routines and emailing agents. Martin was a dynamic and approachable performer. Martin brought Conquest as his opener, and the two worked together incredibly well. During their individual performances, they would even incorporate each other in the set and talk to the other off stage. This energy continued through to the end of the show, when they took to the stage together to talk about their first dates.

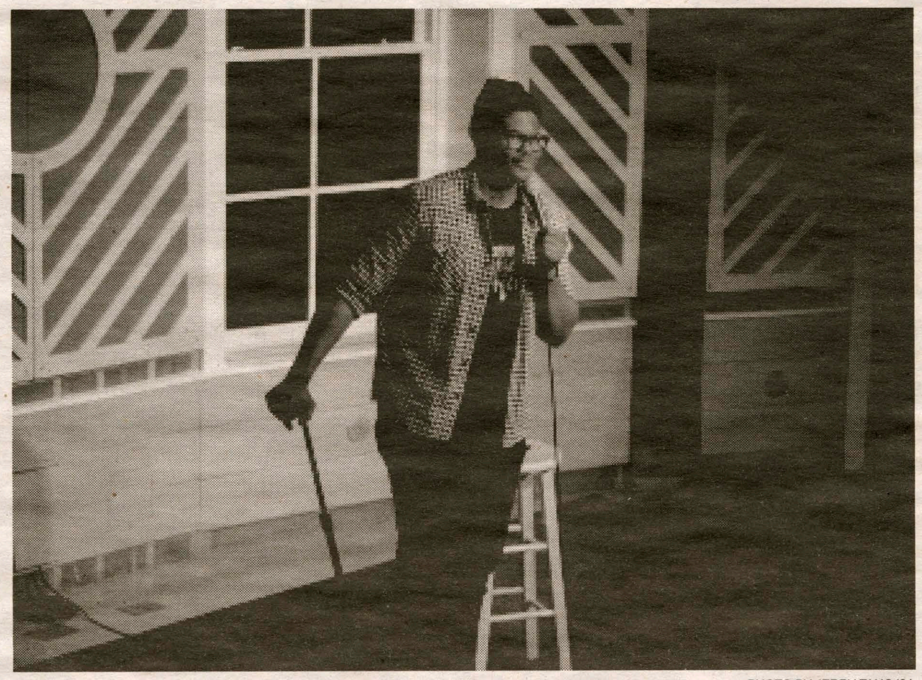


PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

Comedian Monroe Martin onstage in the Events Barn.

Shutzman organized the event, turning the Barn into an ambient comedy venue. Conquest began the show in a buoyant mood and got huge laughs from the audience. He used anecdotes from jobs that he has had (and lost) in the past and joked a lot about the difference in experience between himself and the student audience. He, as well as Martin, used the audience a lot in their acts. The crowd loved it, shouting out responses about Hamilton, and getting heckled from the stage. This type of engagement is a benefit of an intimate venue like the Barn.

When Martin took the stage, the crowd was warmed up and ready to laugh. I really appreciated both of their performances because they were so casual and seemed unscripted. They had material prepared, but they were willing to improvise and deviate from the plan to incorporate humor into what was going on around us.

Throughout the performance, people would sneak into the upstairs balcony in the Barn, and each time they would say "Oh, hello new person!" and ask how they were doing. At one point, someone came stomping down the stairs on their way to the Farm Party in the Annex, and Monroe called out a random person as being the mystery stomper. The person, who also seemed to be on their way to the Annex, joined in on the bit and dramatically tip toed out.

Overall it was an awesome set, with great performances by both Conquest and Martin.

Syracuse-based poet Steve Roggenbuck brings prose and comedy to Hamilton

by Grace Passanante '20
Staff Writer

Steve Roggenbuck opened his poetry reading by demonstrating solidarity with Hamilton students, explaining that he hails from Syracuse so "he is from around here." Although he may be similar to Hamilton students geographically, Roggenbuck is like no other poet that we have ever seen. He calls his compilation of comedic and nonsensical short stories, as well as his Youtube videos and comical two-line poems, the work of a poet. As he describes his occupation to the crowd, Roggenbuck claims that to be a poet means to like "word stuff" and riddles. Most of his poems and stories are funny and represent the sense of humor of a college student, which obviously resonated with the group as they laugh along with him in the basement of Kirner-Johnson. Roggenbuck's poems tend to include lots of jokes, as well as some serious information that promotes taking care of the planet as well as being true to oneself. His YouTube videos, which range in title from "make something beautiful before you are dead" and "I am Not Responsible for Anything The Moon Does" contain similar messages. They are made up of his ranting monologues as he walks around an open space, usually a park or forest, and speaks to the camera. He reflects on success, life, and taking care of the planet as it deteriorates in front of us, dropping references to animals and personifying plants in the process.

PHOTO BY LEVANA LYU '21

Roggenbuck showing one of his YouTube videos, the comments on which inspired some of his poetry.

At his poetry reading, Roggenbuck showed the audience several of his videos and read poems from his two books, *Live My Life: Selected and New Poems*, 2008-15, and *Calculating How Big Of a Tip to Give is The Easiest Thing Ever, Shout Out to My Family & Friends*. From his book of selected poetry, Roggenbuck read several poems that consisted of only a title and one subsequent line. The audience roared with laughter once they realized that a grandiose title, such as *I Had a Dream a Turtle was Threatening Me Verbally*, was followed by only one line: "and that's something that I hope never happens to me in real life." Roggenbuck's witty humor carries through his collection of short stories as well. He also read several of these for the Hamilton audience, receiving many laughs in response. Roggenbuck also combines his affinity for writing with his YouTube career by combining all of the comments he has received on the platform over the years into a long poem that pokes fun at the strange, confusing, and incredibly honest comments that viewers post.

On a more serious note, Roggenbuck read from his poem called *There's no morning sky anywhere*, which is a poem that critiques the police system in America. In the poem, Roggenbuck compares the blue of police officers uniform to "the blue color of something that has been dead." Due to recent controversial events that involve the police in America, this poem is very relevant and serves as a voice for those supposedly oppressed by the police. In another critique of society, Roggenbuck states how "humans are basically ants that got too much power" in a reflection on capitalism and how it negatively affects the human race and the planet. Roggenbuck ended the reading by describing how a "boost network" grows. He explained that you can give a boost to someone if you are an agent in the world who is creating change. When you boost someone, they can be at a higher level in life. Once you are at a higher level, you are more likely to give a boost to other people. Roggenbuck's motto is to live life freely with a positive attitude, all while having fun and creating positive change. Roggenbuck's reading was a pleasant mixture of comedy and deep reflection. The Hamilton community was lucky to see him perform.

The new Taylor: reviewing *Reputation*

by Josephine Blatt '21
Staff Writer

Since the release of her first album in 2006, Taylor Swift had released a new album every other fall. However, "Swifties," as her fans are called, have waited an extra year for the release of Swift's sixth album, *Reputation*. The wait came to an end on Nov. 10.

As fans listened to the album, it became evident that "the old Taylor" really is dead, as Swift says in the album's first single "Look What You Made Me Do." However, it is also clear that the new Taylor is strong, happy, in love, and still a pop mastermind.

The shift in sound and subject matter that *Reputation* marks in Swift's songbook, however, is more the result of a natural evolution than that of a sudden, radical change.

Swift's first, self-titled, album was released when she was only 16 years old. With hits like "Teardrops On My Guitar," "Our Song," and "Tim McGraw," Taylor quickly became America's country music sweetheart and distinguished herself in the world of songwriters.

With her second studio album *Fearless*, released in 2008, Swift shifted more towards a pop-country sound and launched her first world tour. Many hit singles from the album, including "You Belong With Me" and "Love Story," would go on to become classics in Swift's discography. Winning the Grammy Award for Album of the Year, and many other awards, *Fearless* is the most awarded album in the history of country music.

Swift continued her reign as pop-country queen with *Speak Now* in 2010. *Rolling Stone* ranked "Mean," the album's third single, at #24 on their list of the "100 Greatest Country Songs of All Time," the highest ranking for a song released in the 21st century. In 2012, Swift released her fourth studio album *Red*. Though still considered country on many genre specific music charts, *Red* shifted more towards a pop sound. The album's two best-selling singles were "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" and "I Knew You Were Trouble."

In 2014, Swift officially left the genre of country music with her fifth album *1989*. She continued to shatter records as *1989* made Swift the first woman to win the Grammy for Album of the Year twice. Her seamless transition from country to pop was critically acclaimed, as few artists have made successfully that transition. The album's lead single "Shake It Off" became Swift's best-selling single to date.

After entering the pop world with *1989*, it would only make sense that *Reputation* would shift more towards the sounds of other pop artists today. In addition to its different sound, the lyrical content of *Reputation* is also much more mature. Swift mentions alcohol and sex much more often and up front than in her previous five albums. In "I Did Something Bad," Swift uses profanity for the first time as she sings "If a man talks shit, then I owe him nothing." This may come as a shock to listeners who are used to "the old Taylor," but Swift is almost 28 now. Thus, the progression of her thematic focus is logical.

Each album and thus, each era of Taylor Swift, clearly reflects her love life at the time. Swift has always been able to masterfully write songs that her fans can easily relate to in various stages of love. A common theme in *Taylor Swift* is wanting to be loved, in *Fearless* it's falling in love, in *Speak Now* its being in love, in *Red* its losing love, in *1989* its loving yourself, and in *Reputation* its finding true love and not caring what others think about it. *Reputation's* love songs are all seemingly about Swift's boyfriend of a year, Joe Alwyn. Swift has kept this relationship, and her life in general, fairly private over the past year so these songs are the first time the public is hearing about this relationship; it is evident that Swift is happier than she's ever been before. In the last song of the album, a beautiful acoustic ballad after many more uptempo pop-electronic songs, "New Year's Day," Swift sings "I want your midnights, but I'll be cleaning up bottles with you on New Year's Day." Here, she recognizes the value of big romantic moments, but understands that at the end of the day what matters is finding someone who will be there for you when the night ends and life gets tough. This is a more mature outlook on love for Swift, and shows the depth of her relationship with Alwyn.

Another highlight of *Reputation* is "This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things," in which Swift addresses her feud with Kanye West and Kim Kardashian, something that has largely impacted her standing. Swift takes a topic that could make for a rather petty and immature song and turns it into a catchy jam full of instrumental surprises and artfully crafted lyrics. "Dress" another highlight, shows Swift, a singer widely criticized as being sexless in many of her other albums, disproves such claims, as she sings the hook, "Only bought this dress so you could take it off." *Reputation* also features Swift's first collaboration with Ed Sheeran since "Everything Has Changed" on *Red*. "End Game", which also features rapper Future, reinforces that Swift and Sheeran make for a great pair.

If you listened to the first two singles Swift released from *Reputation*, "Look What You Made Me Do" and "...Ready For It?" and were unimpressed, I would still recommend purchasing Reputation. As a longtime "Swiftie," I was concerned that Taylor I would not hear any of Taylor's beautiful lyrics or vocal talent in her sixth album. However, my doubts vanished as almost every other song on the album impressed me. In fact, I would say that those are two of the weaker songs on the album and were used as singles to generate buzz because of their content. Moreover, I would recommend listening to *Reputation* from top to bottom, as the album tells a sonically cohesive story that is best heard chronologically.

Personally, after listening to *Reputation* I maintain my opinion that Taylor Swift is one of the greatest songwriters of all time. Particularly, her abilities as a lyricist amaze me.

Swift has decided to withhold *Reputation* from streaming services for at least a week. The album, which sold more than 717,000 copies in the U.S. in its first day of release, can be purchased on iTunes or as a hard copy. For a limited time, Reputation can also be streamed on the iHeartRadio app.

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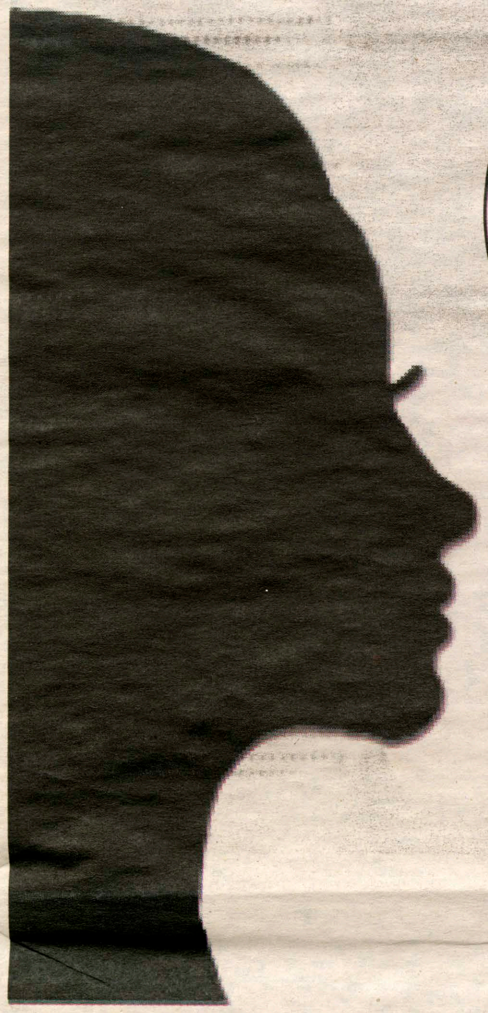

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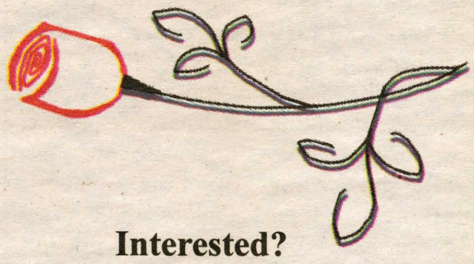

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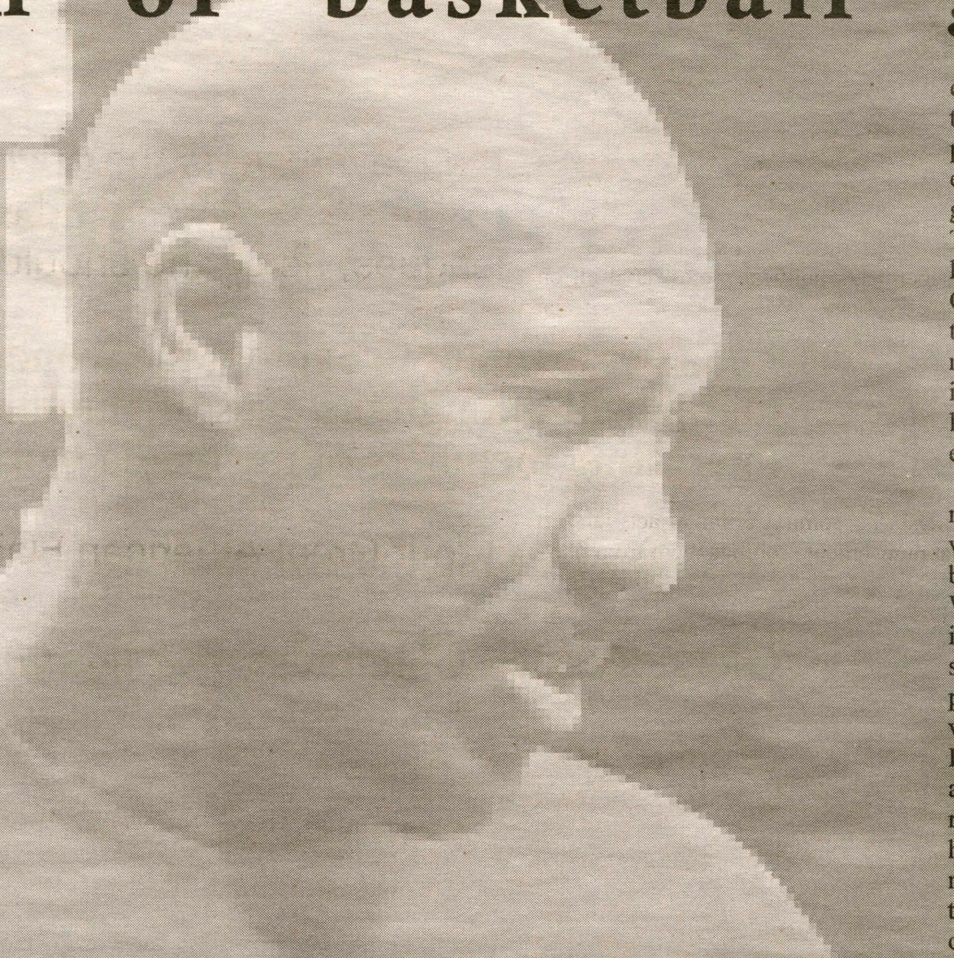
LaVar Ball deserves a place in the pantheon of basketball geniuses

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor



Phil Jackson, Gregg Popovich, Coach Krzyzewski, and LaVar Ball — this list encompasses the Mount Rushmore of basketball geniuses. You may think that Ball does not deserve to be recognized next to the 11-time NBA champion and offensive innovator, or the current active NBA coaching wins leader, or even the five-time NCAA national champion who has won over 1,000 games at the helm of Duke's monolithic basketball program. I beg to differ. Ball has created an empire focused on his three sons, none of whom are legally old enough to order a beer at the Village Tavern. Lonzo, LiAngelo, and LaMelo have already been pegged as the future of the basketball, while the outrageous personality of their father has fueled the Big Baller Brand, a rising force in sports apparel.

On June 22, 2017, LaVar's vision played out to perfection when Lonzo was selected by his hometown Los Angeles Lakers. Already at the forefront of media attention for his inflammatory comments surrounding his supposed ability to beat Michael Jordan in a game of one on one, LaVar stole the spotlight on *ESPN* on draft night. LaVar was interviewed while sporting a Laker-themed Big Baller Brand hat, asserting that he had had that hat made when Lonzo "was a baby." Impossible, but I love it. Putting a microphone in LaVar's face is a one-way ticket to an irresistible electric factory, as the NBA's ultimate puppet master claimed he would absolutely be able to ensure that both LiAngelo and LaMelo would join Lonzo on the Lakers after serving their required year at UCLA. When the reporter had the audacity to ask how LaVar could promise all this, he simply side-eyed his interviewer and responded, "Ball control." LaVar had been waiting his entire life to whip that phrase out on live TV, and he executed it to perfection, capturing his shining moment in the spotlight.

"Ball control" has become an all-encompassing summation of LaVar's marketing of the talent of his sons. Both Lonzo and LaMelo have their own signature shoe through Big Baller Brand (for a hefty price of nearly 500 dollars a pair); the family has its own reality show available through Facebook called "Ball in the Family," and LaVar has successfully operated several pop-up shop locations to push his over-priced sports apparel. Despite steep price tags, the Big Baller Brand swag sells like hotcakes because, deep down, everybody wants to be a Big Baller. The Balls' show on Facebook showcases how truly boring Melo, Gelo, and Zo are, while showcasing the exuberance and quirkiness of their father, the true star of the show. LaVar's personality has been increasingly refined as a national treasure through consistent appearances on *SportsCenter* and other sports talk shows. Nothing swayed my allegiance more to the cult of LaVar than his appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Raw, where the Ball patriarch executed what can only be described as the most bizarre entrance of all time to the wrestling ring, before quickly disrobing and performing some sort of tai chi movement to "intimidate" professional wrestler The Miz. Lavar is absolutely bananas in the best imaginable sense.

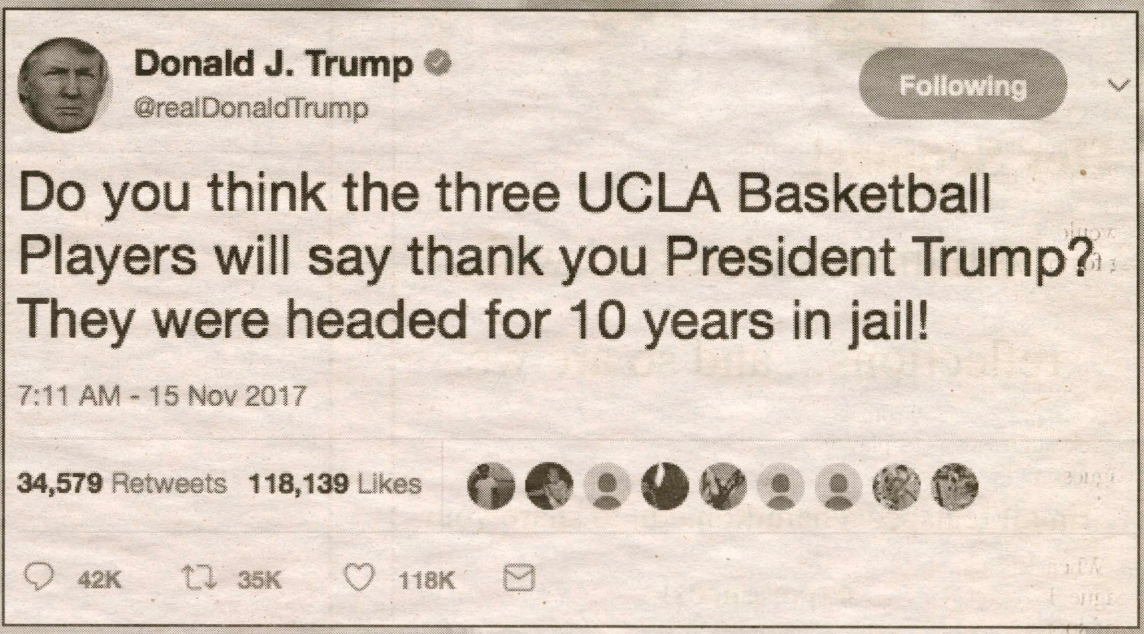
LaVar has remained consistently in the spotlight since Lonzo's first game at UCLA, but the most recent development in the Ball saga has truly shown the influence of the Ball name and the cult of the Big Baller Brand.

On Nov. 7, 2017, LiAngelo was arrested for shoplifting in Hangzhou, China when his collegiate team travelled abroad to promote the image of NCAA basketball overseas. The middle Ball son was caught on video stealing a pair of sunglasses, along with two other UCLA teammates, from a Louis Vitton store in Hangzhou. LiAngelo's arrest quickly blossomed into a national security crisis, where reports claimed a prison sentence up to 12 years could be handed down to LiAngelo and his Bruin buddies. Naturally, LaVar had tagged along — as had 16 year-old LaMelo — on the trip to organize pop-up stores featuring exclusive Big Baller Brand merchandise. When the situation settled, LiAngelo was placed on house arrest in his hotel. Nevertheless, the LaVar show must go on, and ignoring his distressed son, LaVar did not hesitate to carry out his business plan that necessitated the opening of a pop-up in Shanghai.

I am 90 percent confident that LaVar told his son to go out and get arrested in a foreign country. Would it really be that ridiculous of a strategy for the family who has seen nothing but immense profit from the incident? The least-known Ball brother, LiAngelo, was elevated to the center of the global news cycle, reminding us all that there is another member of LaVar's lineage tearing up the NCAA this year. For the past week, every major sports media outlet has obsessed over LiAngelo's release, proving that even though he is substantially less talented than his older brother, LiAngelo will be drafted in the first round this summer — most likely to the Lakers. Upon seeing the news about LiAngelo's arrest, I immediately went on YouTube to find highlights of the middle Ball playing college hoops in the pre-season. I am pretty unimpressed by what I have seen so far, but I am certainly going to watch more than a rational amount of UCLA basketball simply to assess LiAngelo's skill with my own eyes. Not only did LiAngelo captivate the attention of the global basketball public, but President Donald Trump even got involved in the "Free LiAngelo" campaign. Apparently, President Trump personally negotiated the release of the three UCLA players with Chinese President Xi Jingping. Even the President of the United States, the most powerful individual in the world, is involved in establishing the Ball legacy. Ball Control is making waves even in the Oval Office.

Being a parent of a youth athlete represents a difficult balance for most, where encouragement is mandatory but over-involvement is frowned upon. We have all witnessed parents screaming at their children in a recreational soccer match, or a parent raving about professional aspirations for a child who looks disengaged and lacks talent. LaVar was not content to sit idly by and allow his children to develop naturally; he bought into a destiny where his children brought him immense glory, wealth, and power. LaVar has made this wild dream a reality. While many of his actions and statements may make us cringe in embarrassment, or laugh in disbelief, it is undeniable that LaVar has found a way to make all of his visions come true. Who is to say that he cannot beat Jordan in a one-on-one game? Who can confidently say that the Lakers will never win a title with Lonzo at the helm? Is it inconceivable that Lonzo is substantially better than Stephen Curry? Well, that might be a slight stretch.

LaVar Ball is playing four-dimensional chess. He has captured the fixation of the American public while lining his pocket with the profits of his ventures, developing a triumvirate of talent in his household to fulfill his vision of fortune and fame. As basketball fans, we must all applaud the self-proclaimed genius of LaVar. Whether you despise how LaVar emboldens parents in youth athletics to be obnoxious, absurd, and exploitative, LaVar Ball and his three sons are the present and future of basketball, and will continue captivate a global audience for decades to come. We must all accept and celebrate our inner Big Baller.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TWITTER

Colin Kaepernick deserves NFL contract regardless of political demonstrations

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Sports Editor

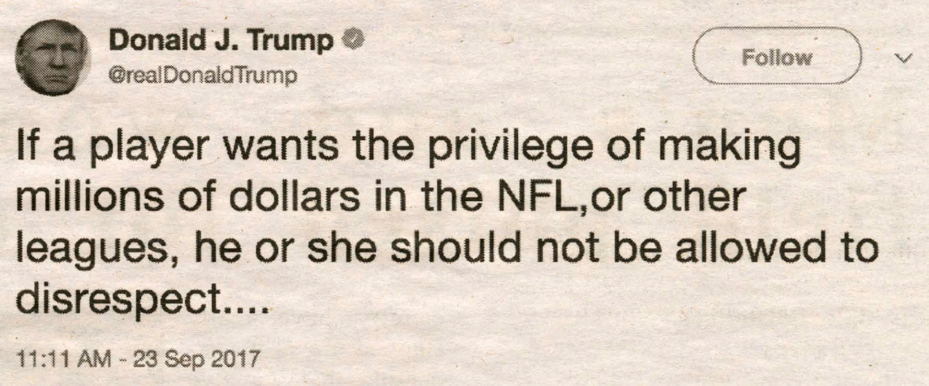
To the chagrin of some and the elation of others, *GQ* recently named Colin Kaepernick its "Citizen of the Year," despite the fact that Kaepernick has not played a down of football since 2016. Kaepernick has made headlines, started a movement, and sparked intense debate by kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and a government which he believes neither cares about him nor other people of color. Despite being a talented quarterback who led the 49ers to two NFC Championship games and one Super Bowl, Kaepernick remains unsigned. Meanwhile, DeShone Kizer, C.J. Beathard, Mitch Trubitsky, Brandon Weeden, Joe Webb, and Colt McCoy are all NFL quarterbacks and are clearly inerior ability.

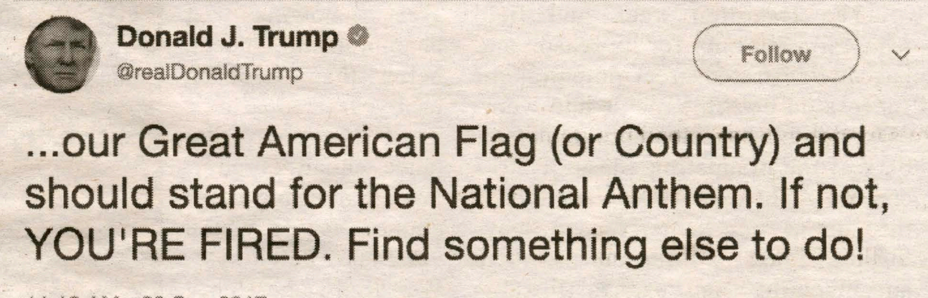
While Kaepernick has had his share of ups and downs, the fact that he remains unsigned appears absurd from a football standpoint. In early August, *FiveThirtyEight* ran an analysis and determined that, "No above-average quarterback has been unemployed nearly as long as Kaepernick this offseason." That was three months ago and *FiveThirtyEight* already claimed that the length of his free agency for a quarterback of his caliber was "practically unheard of." Off-the-field factors indubitably have been the primary cause for Kaepernick's lack of a contract. For one, teams do not want the distraction that Kaepernick and the press that will inevitably follow. Additionally, teams do not want to be seen as validating his antics and may even want to punish him for a display of views they disagree with. Kaepernick recently filed suit against the league and its owners for colluding to keep him out of a job.

As a sports fan, the fact that Kaepernick, whose athletic ability deserves a spot on an NFL roster, if not a starting role, remains unsigned, is disheartening. Fans and athletes love sports partially because they are understood to be a meritocracy. One's ability to contribute to the team should be the sole determinant of whether someone makes the team and how much playing time he or she gets. Reality is never so straightforward, but, just as one should not vote for politicians based on which sports teams they support, owners and coaches should not sign and play players based on the political opinions they hold and choose to express. Whether or not one supports Kaepernick's actions, no true sports fan should say that he deserves to remain unsigned because of his political statements. Those who claim to love the game must admit that the quality of play would be elevated were Kaepernick playing. Several teams would be better if Kaepernick were playing for them. On those grounds alone, Kaepernick should be signed. Those who disagree, do not respect sports as a meritocracy.

Unfortunately, sports have never been fully meritocratic. From the days when black athletes had to play in separate leagues until now, factors that in no way influence one's ability to play the game have kept some unjustly out of the league. When Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier, the world of sports took a huge leap towards becoming truly meritocratic and, increasingly, sports have come to emphasize merit more and more. That said, true meritocracy is a long way off, as many of the voices who are calling for teams to sign Kaepernick were the same voices berating the league to enforce stricter punishment on Ray Rice for his domestic violence arrest. By no means do I wish to imply that Kaepernick's political protest is at all on the same level as Rice's beating up and dragging of his fiance out of an elevator. The logic which empowers the league and owners to punish players for matters not related to the team harms sports' place as an insular meritocracy. I have no reservations about letting the law punish Rice and others who commit criminal acts, and, if that punishment prohibits them from playing, I have no issue. When one makes NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell or Cowboys owner Jerry Jones the enforcer of the law, however, they give these men incredible authority to abuse it. Goodell, Jones, and their ilk have massive power over matters of football, but, for the sake of the sport, these men should leave the off-the-field questions alone. Render unto Goodell that which is Goodell's, and render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.

Kaepernick's unemployment is yet another reminder that the NFL is a business, and that owners have considerable autonomy over their teams. Because of this, wins and losses often take a back seat to the bottom line and the image of both the franchise and the owner. Obviously, Goodell cannot force any team to sign Kaepernick, and, for that matter, no one can. I, thus, appeal to owners to have integrity and value on-field product over selfish ends. Those of us who love the game and see sports as a rare realm of true meritocracy will respect that decision and reward you for that. When politics limits the quality of play, fans are upset and feel less inclined to watch. All we ask for, as sports fans, is for sports to be sports. Let your players do and say what they want off the field so long as it does not impact the team. Let the best players and best team win, and the league will thrive — sacrifice product for selfish political goals and it will suffer. Suck it up, NFL owners. Someone sign Kaepernick. You will thank me later.





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Kaepernick's previous success in the league should have earned him an NFL contract.

SPECTATOR SPORTS
November 16, 2017

Men's and women's track and field poised for successful seasons

by Jake Bolster '19
Staff Writer

The Hamilton track and field team is gearing up for its season and has demonstrated great potential for success on both the men's and women's side. On the men's side, members of the graduating Class of 2017 combined for over 100 points scored throughout their senior season, leaving big shoes for returning members and incoming first-years to fill. Fortunately, the first few practices of the year — despite multiple members of men's cross country still competing in the fall — have indicated that everyone has positioned themselves nicely to build on a stellar 2016-2017 season. Seniors Tom Bisko '18, Justin Dillane '18, and Eli Saucier '18 will anchor a sprint squad that is returning most of its relay core and individual performers who are hungry for new personal and school records. Saucier alone will be an indomitable force indoors. Last season, he dominated the 60 meter, 200 meter, and 400 meter dash — tying the school indoor record for the 60 meter dash. There is no indication that he will slow down. When asked about his goals for the 2017-18 season, Saucier mused on his personal goals, and those he's set for his teammates. "I'm expecting great things this season. I expect to pick up where I left off during outdoor and try to work my way up to the podium at nationals. That's my ultimate goal, but I also have goals to break the indoor sprinting records along the way. As far as the team goes, I think this could be one of the best teams here in the past few years. Most of the team is returning and those who ran cross country have really stepped up. I'm expecting that we give great showings at championship meets, better than those in past years."

The men's distance squad is coming off a strong cross country season where veterans Peter DeWeirdt '18 and Henry Whipple '18 consistently churned out stellar performances supplemented by promising turns from various underclassmen. At Regionals, the top three Continental finishers were as follows: DeWeirdt at 24th overall, followed by Whipple at 38th, and first-year Lucas Wright '21 at 54th. These three gentlemen will look to take advantage of the shorter indoor season to propel the distance group to new heights. As Colin Horgan '19, a member of the distance team notes, "With a larger distance team than in recent years and a good amount of talent, we're excited to train as a team and try to beat times from last year. There'll be guys chasing school records as well, so it'll definitely be a lot of fun watching them go after it. Cross country was a lot of fun, and we're looking to ride that high into the winter." Rounding out some of the top distance runners are Eric Wohl '18, Reilly Shew '19, Horgan, and Jake Colangelo '20. Jumper Preston DeLaurentis '18, and throwers Patrick Malin '18 and Ty Kunzman '20 will lead the way for the Continentals in the field events.

PHOTO BY JOHN HARTPENCE

Grace Heller '19 and Hannah Jerome '18 lead the women's distance runners.

The women's team is looking as equally talented and motivated as their male counterparts with many returners looking to achieve loftier goals, and new first-years eager to make a mark on the program. The sprinters are looking to follow up a strong 2016-2017 season that saw three school records fall, and a staggering number of personal records achieved. Leading the onslaught of sprinters is Cat Berry '19. After coming off one of the fastest seasons by a Continental ever, Berry had this to say about her expectations for 2017-18 competition, "I'm excited to get the indoor season started, especially with the new sprinters we have I'm sure they are going to be a huge asset to our relays as well as individual events. We also have more women in all areas of field events, so overall I think we are going into the track season with a strong foundation. Personally, I hope to drop time in indoor events from last year, especially in the 400, and get ready for outdoor season!"

As Berry noted, the Continentals women's field events will be in capable hands, helped by Leigh Gelotte '19 and Emily Steates '19, a high jumper and long jumper, respectively. Both ladies are in the top ten of their respective record boards and are looking to move into the top five this season. Upon considering the upcoming slate of competition, Steates remarked, "We have quite a few new field event athletes, including three new pole vaulters, and they'll add a lot of depth to the team. I'm very excited to see what this season will bring!"

The women's distance team is extremely deep and loaded with talent. According to Hanna Jerome '18 — who, along with her teammate Grace Heller '19, qualified for Nationals in cross country this past weekend — Hamilton's distance squad consists of old and new faces ready to work hard and reach new heights. Jerome noted, "With several new runners to the team, I would not put it past this group of girls to set school relay records as well as personal bests. First-year Brigit Humphreys '21 comes into the season with impressive high school mid-distance times and (Heller) looks very promising in long distance events." With veterans furthering their success and first-years bringing new energy, there are many reasons for excitement surrounding the upcoming season on the women's team.

Outside of impending individual and team success, the 2017-18 track season will be an intriguing one due to a few rule and venue changes. Typically, the Continentals travel to the state tournament at the conclusion of the indoor and outdoor season; however, starting this year, there is no more state-wide meet. As a result, the Continentals have added a trip to the recently erected Middlebury athletic facility to cap off their indoor season. Undoubtedly, this expanded competition will only bring out the best in Hamilton's track and field program.

PHOTO BY JOHN HARTPENCE

Jake Bolster '19 and the track team warm up on the new track.